

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WASHDC

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UNCLAS ROME 10241

PASS TO DOE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BORRE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IT OF ENERGY

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY O'LEARY VISIT

IN PREPARING MR. O'LEARY'S SPEECH IN GENOA, YOU MAY
FIND THE FOLLOWING REMARKS ON ITALY-U.S. ENERGY COOPERATION,
TAKEN FROM A MAY 23 SPEECH BY THE AMBASSADOR AT THE
BOCCONI UNIVERSITY (MILAN), OF SOME USE:

QUOTE: IN ADDITION TO OUR MULTILATERAL COOPERATION
THROUGH THE IEA, THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY HAVE BEEN WORKING
TOGETHER IN A SPECIAL BILATERAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP.
IN CONNECTION WITH THAT GROUP THE UNITED STATES, IN ACCORDANCE
WITH A COMMITMENT GIVEN BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRIME
MINISTER ANDREOTTI, HAS AGREED TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION TO
THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK FOR FINANCING A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF
EIGHT MORE ENEL NUCLEAR REACTORS. THE UNITED STATES HAS ALSO
PROMISED TO HELP IN OBTAINING ADDITIONAL PRIVATE FINANCING AS
WELL AS URANIUM SUPPLIES SHOULD ITALY REQUIRE SUCH ASSISTANCE.
AT PRESENT IN THE BILATERAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP, WE ARE
EXPLORING WAYS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY CAN ENGAGE
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IN MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS. WE HAVE RECENTLY HELD INFORMAL BILATERAL MEETINGS
OF EXPERTS ON SOLAR AND COAL TECHNOLOGIES; WE
HAVE ALSO HELD BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON RADIOACTIVE
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM
NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING. IN ADDITION TO THESE INITIATIVES,
WE ARE CONTINUING OUR ALREADY WELL-ESTABLISHED BILATERAL

COOPERATION ON NUCLEAR SAFETY AND ON GEOTHERMAL ENERGY SOURCES,
AND WE INTEND TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES IN CONSERVATION
AND BIOMASS TECHNOLOGIES.

LET ME SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR BILATERAL
COOPERATION ON GEOTHERMAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES, BECAUSE
THIS COOPERATION ILLUSTRATES THE GREAT VARIETY AND DEPTH OF
BILATERAL ACTIVITY THAT WE ARE ABLE TO ORGANIZE.
ITALY, AS YOU KNOW, IS A LEADER IN THE USE OF GEOTHERMAL
STEAM FOR ELECTRICAL GENERATION. ENEL AND CNR HAVE BUILT
UP STRONG TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES IN THIS
FIELD. THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS SUBSTANTIAL GEOTHERMAL
RESOURCES, HAS BEEN TRYING TO EXPAND THEIR USE. IT IS
NO SURPRISE THAT WE FIND OURSELVES COMING TO THOSE WHO HAVE
LONG EXPERIENCE FOR HELP. AT THE SAME TIME, ITALY BENEFITS
FROM THE SUBSTANTIAL U.S. RESEARCH PROGRAM AND AT DEVELOPING
NEW GEOTHERMAL TECHNOLOGIES. THE PRESENT U.S.-ITALY GEOTHERMAL
COOPERATION IS BASED ON THE BENEFITS THAT EACH COUNTRY DERIVES
FROM OUR JOINT EFFORTS. IN MY OPINION, MUTUAL BENEFIT--THE
SUM OF TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FACTORS--IS THE STRONGEST
BASIS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

ALREADY UNDER OUR GEOTHERMAL AGREEMENTS, WE ARE
MAKING EXTENSIVE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS: IT IS OUR SINCERE
HOPE THAT, THROUGH THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ALREADY
BEGUN ON SOLAR, COAL AND CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIES,
THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO EXPAND OUR COOPERATION FURTHER
IN THESE AREAS. WE NEED TO EXPLORE MANY TYPES OF
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COOPERATION: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, VISITS, EXCHANGES
OF PERSONNEL, EXCHANGES OF EQUIPMENT OR TEST FACILITIES,
SUB-CONTRACTING, PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT OR LICENSES, AND
LAST BUT NOT LEAST, JOINT PROJECTS.

I AM PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO SEE COOPERATION
DEVELOP ON SO-CALLED "ALTERNATIVE" ENERGY SOURCES.
IT SEEMS CLEAR TO ME THAT WE SHALL EVENTUALLY FIND OURSELVES
TURNING TOWARD GREATER RELIANCE ON RENEWABLE SOURCES OF
ENERGY LIKE THE SUN AND WIND. THE SOLAR ENERGY FAIR IN
GENOA THIS JUNE WILL, I AM SURE, SEE GREATLY INCREASED
COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES. WE ARE LOOKING
FORWARD TO HAVING FOR THIS OCCASION A VISIT FROM THE SECOND-
RANKING OFFICIAL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, JOHN O'LEARY.
MR. O'LEARY'S DEPARTMENT, AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, IS THIS YEAR
SPENDING 370 MILLION DOLLARS ON SOLAR RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT AND HIS VIEWS ON HOW SOLAR ENERGY USE WILL EXPAND
IN THE FUTURE IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD WILL, I THINK, BE OF
GREAT INTEREST. END QUOTE
GARDNER

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